

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00305 281459Z

43

ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 H-03 SS-07 NSC-06 RSC-01 /025 W

----- 064592

R 281426Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2496

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 305

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (MATHIAS, CHARLES MCC.), SY

SUBJ: SENATOR MATHIAS VISIT TO SYRIA

1. SUMMARY: SENATOR MATHIAS MADE SHORT VISIT TO DAMASCUS JANUARY 25. HE HAD MEETINGS WITH SEVERAL SENIOR SARG OFFICIALS INCLUDING SPEAKER OF SYRIAN PEOPLE'S COUNCIL MOHAMMAD ALI HALABI, MIN. OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE MOHAMMAD IMADI, AND FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL HALIM KHADDAM. HOPED FOR VISIT WITH PRESIDENT ASAD NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO PRESIDENT'S ABSENCE FROM CAPITAL FOR BROTHER'S FUNERAL IN LATAKIA. VISIT WAS USEFUL AND GAVE ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE TO SARG THAT U.S. LEADERS CONCERNED ABOUT M.E. SITUATION AND SPECIFICALLY SYRIAN POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. SENATOR MATHIAS ARRIVED JANUARY 25 FOR EIGHT HOUR VISIT TO SYRIA CAPITAL. HE MET AT AIRPORT BY ABDUL NAFAI SIBAAI, CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF SYRIAN PEOPLE'S COUNCIL. SENATOR PROCEEDED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FOR APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER OF ECONOMY MOHAMMAD IMADI. THEIR CONVERSATIONS WERE ON SARG EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SYRIAN ECONOMY AND U.S. ASSISTANCE. IMADI MADE POINT THAT HE HOPED FOR SWIFT MOVES TOWARD PEACE TO ENABLE MORE OF SYRIAN BUDGET TO GO FOR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED HOPE FOR MORE INTEREST BY AMERICAN FIRMS IN SYRIA. MINISTER NOTED SYRIA'S FOREIGN DEBT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00305 281459Z

SERVICING AMOUNTED TO ONLY 17 PERCENT OF VALUE ITS ANNUAL

EXPORTS, MAKING SYRIAN AN EXCELLENT CREDIT RISK.

3. LUNCH HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR HAMUD SHUFI, DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN SECTION IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. OTHER GUESTS INCLUDED OFFICIALS FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PEOPLE'S COUNCIL. DISCUSSION FOLLOWING LUNCH CENTERED ON ROLE U.S. MAY PLAY IN REACHING M.E. SETTLEMENT WITH SYRIANS COMING DOWN HARD THAT U.S. EXPECTED TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE PARTICULARLY VIS-A-VIS ISRAELI ATTITUDES TOWARD SETTLEMENT WITH ARABS.

4. SENATOR HAD CORDIAL ONE AND HALF HOUR CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM. KHADDAM MADE ROUGHLY SAME POINTS AS HE HAD EARLIER IN WEEK TO SENATOR PERCY THAT ARABS WANT PEACE BUT THAT PRESENT ISRAELI ATTITUDES TOWARD FULL WITHDRAWAL AND PLO SEEMED TO LEAVE LITTLE HOPE FOR SUCCESS THROUGHT NEGOTIATIONS (HIGHLIGHTS SEPTTEL.)

5. SARG CONTROLLED PRESS REPORTED ALL OF SENATOR'S CALLS ON SYRIAN OFFICIALS INCLUDING PICTURE OF SENATOR WITH FOREIGN MINISTER.

6. COMMENT: THROUGH VISIT EXTREMELY SHORT AND HURRIED, IT WAS VALUABLE AS FURTHER EVIDENCE TO SYRIANS THAT MANY LEADERS OF USG ARE CONCERNED ABOUT M.E. AND INTERESTED IN ARAB, INCLUDING SYRIAN POINT OF VIEW.
MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC00305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750031-0446
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750115/aaaaandv.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION A
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATOR MATHIAS VISIT TO SYRIA
TAGS: OREP, SY, (MATHIAS, CHARLES MCC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006